

THE
ABECEDARIAN,
OR,
PHILOSOPHIC COMMENT
UPON THE
ENGLISH ALPHABET.

SETTING FORTH

The Absurdities in the present Custom of Spelling,
the Superfluity of Letters in Words, and the
great Confusion that their ill Names and double
Meanings are of to all Learners,

WITH

Modest PROPOSALS for a Reformation of the Alphabet,
adapting special Characters for that Purpose, as being
the only Means practicable whereby to render the same
distinct, uniform, and universal.

ALSO,

A Word to the Reader, shewing the Indignity of ill Habits
in Lecturers, pointing out to them the Beauties and
Excellency of graceful and fine Reading.

LIKEWISE,

A SYLLABLEIUM, or Universal Reading Table, for
Beginners, calculated after the present Use, for the Way of
all Schools throughout the Kingdom.

TOGETHER WITH

A Discourse on the WORD, or A-TAU, tetragrammatical,
preceding those Tables.

*Then said they unto him, say now Shibboleth, and he said Sibbo-
leth, for he could not frame to pronounce it right. Judg. xii. 6.*

By JOHN YEOMANS, Schoolmaster in Five-
Fields-Row, Chelsea.

L O N D O N :

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THE Author hereof teaches **READING ENGLISH** according to the Usage and Approbation of the correctest Readers in England. **WRITING**, Useful and Ornamental; **ARITHMETIC**, Vulgar and Decimal; **MERCHANTS ACCOMPTS**, whereby a Person in a short Time may be made a very useful Clerk, and thoroughly perfected for the Man of Business. Together with an unprecedented Projection of **SWIFT WRITING**; fully demonstrating the whole Tachigraphical Power of Circles, Lines, and Dots, methodically contrived from his peculiar Judgment in articulate Sounds. This Art contains in it but few Characters, yet nothing of the Kind is so clear and quick; and it may be attained at Six Lessons, for *One Guinea* only.

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* * Copies of this Pamphlet are sold by the Author, at his Academy in Five-fields-Row, Chelsea.



T H E
P R E F A C E.

AT the time I wrote the Exhibit, and till after the sheets were printed off, I did not design any particular Dedication other than what is comprehended in the said Exhibit. My acquaintance instructed me to appropriate this thing to some great man, as they called it; assuring, that such patronage or authority would have great weight with the world, and be a very essential means, as well to promote the sale of the book, as to propagate the design of the work: upon which I consulted the powers of Decency, and intreated the aid of impartial Puducia. Her oracle and modest echo I received, saying, "It would be public hypocrisy to tell a man (to the world) of vast abilities and perfections, which perhaps he either never was renowned with, or, if he was, yet, may be, not to your own certain knowledge; and this same *saint*, only because you consecrated your sentiments to him, may be a more affectionate partizan for your interest than a nice inquisitor into the worthiness of the performance, and thereby vain-gloriously impose upon the easy belief of mankind. Valuable works have no need of a spokesman; and I hope it is not often but such are caressed and entertained among men; for whatever is not so, let who will recommend it, ought not by any means to be impressed, promulged,

promulged, or illustrated to the world." And therefore, that I might not please or displease, honour nor dishonour, any in particular; and in allegiance to the rules of complaisance, when one maketh a present of a thing, at the same time to send a letter of advice of it, I humbly beg leave to present this little pamphlet to the judgment and mercy of all in general, leaving every individual to judge for himself; having good hope it will not meet an undue acceptance at my hands. How the people in common will consider and receive it, I have not foreknowledge enough to conceive; but this I am certain of, that no one can take it amiss, but such as do not rightly and duly consider it. Some there are perhaps, who may befriend me this kind speech, and say, *He meant well, but it was an error in his judgment*: others perhaps, that *It is a piece of enthusiastic stuff, the effect of fairy vision and of idle dream*; but such dream and vision and flight *En-THEO-siasm*, I shall abide by whilst I live here, and be able to justly account for it when I go hence to a better state. Let what will be suggested thereupon, it is a very serious affair, or at least I make a very serious affair of it. It is doubtless a very uncommon projection, and therefore even for its oddity many may conceit it uncouth and preposterous; but that would be no sort of argument against it, neither would it at all diminish the validity thereof. It is not more uncommon than the errors I have specified therein are untrue; and for that very reason, and none other, there is the greater occasion for such alteration and reformation, in order to rectify, stablish, and settle it right.

I pray

I pray that no one will be disaffected to it on account it seems to strike at the authority of the established orthography and writing; for whosoever guesses so is very greatly deceived. It would not at all prevent the publication of any gentleman's works which are now in manuscript, neither would it prejudice any man's labours already extant. It cometh not either to dishonour or to destroy language; but contrary-wise, to promote learning, and to revere the learned: for they must be such magi who must be concerned in the intended glorious reformation, when soever there shall be such reformation carried into execution.

I hope, propitious reader, that you will not over-look this little book with a cursory or slight attention; neither, *as a man beholds his natural face in a glass*, that is, when you have read it over, not to lay it down, shake the head, and then go away, and straight forget what manner of thing it was; or just as beauteous flowers, whose sensual essences, whose rosy steams, lie capfulate and hid, ere-while the radiant day streaks in upon its nature, exfoliates the pleasing portrait, and sheds its sweetness in the perfect air.

I shall gladly at all times answer any modest enquiries concerning this thing, either personally or otherwise, and produce written ensamples of its conciseness, elegance, and beauty. And though it should seem a little outlandish and strange to our natives, as every new thing doth at first sight, yet the uncouthness, they would find, would quickly be swallowed up in familiarity. And, for the truth of it, if my life itself could be accessory

sary to establish and defend, without any reserve, or recoiling of thought, I would freely and cheerfully lay it down for its sake. And now, gentle reader, I humbly refer you to the Exhibit, Introduction, and the Main Work, for further testimony of the facts I relate, and of the probability and possibility of effecting in all respects what I pretend, and what I so earnestly and passionately contend for.

T H E

E R R A T A :

Pag. 33. line 17. for *ewy* read *wy*.

Pag. 64. line 7 from the bottom, for *hn* read *kn*.

T H E
E X H I B I T.

I HAVE been a master some time to teach to read *English*, &c. and amongst the many spellings and pretended guides to that art, I don't observe one of them all fit to be relied on, or to be recommended a proper book for the use of schools; there being in every one such a mighty stock of saying and unsaying, such a diversity of modes, and particularities to be observed; arguments having neither beginning nor ending, without order and without rule; whereby children are miserably retarded in their pursuits after learning, lost and bewildered in the swerving maze: it is a very riddle and gordian knot to them; for, when we have ruled and excepted all we can, there is still a something necessary to make it *The Child's best Instructor*. And reading can never be rendered universally easy, till there is an amended alphabet, till the letters are simple in their soundings and signification, and until their powers, and not their names only, are better understood than they now are; and such powers, and not the names only, made the universal prac-

rice in schools ; the edipthongs and triphthongs dissolved, and the superfluous letters totally done away. As to the accenting and division of syllables, what does it at all avail the learner ? He does not find them hyphened in any books, other than the spellings ; and therefore, his learning after such an order, is rather detrimental, than any way serviceable to him. True spelling is esteemed a very great accomplishment among men, and it well need gain abundant honour, when it exacts so much pains-taking to acquire it ! And, after all, two shall be reported correct spellers, and yet disagree in spelling the self-same word ; and this variance arises, may be, not by default of judgment, but because two several letters shall be permitted the like sound, and the letters in general so unrestrained in their intent or signification.

Of all the methods to teach to read *English*, I know of none so fitting to be used as the good women and masters formerly taught by ; that was, after their battledore, to learn the Primer, and so proceed to the Psalter, Testament, and Bible : for, in the first book, there are short catechisms and forms of prayer quite expedient to be radicated in the minds of children, by way of Christian and moral foundation. The language of the Psalter is very thoughtful, familiar, and well-chosen ; and abounds with such a variety of sentence, that one may learn thereby to express one's-self very elegantly upon many occasions ; especially, serving to pour out our soul before, and acquaint ourselves with, God. Moreover, we read the Psalms of *David*, as they are purely translated from the original tongue, in reading the Psalter ; but in spelling-books we can only read it transposed, and the lessons

lessons confined to words of one, two, three, or more syllables, as best suits the humour and purpose of the author.

This book is an initiation or preparatory to the Old and New Testaments, which is the treasury of wisdom; hence both our language and instructions are made perfect. If we desire to be orators, let us read the Scriptures; if we would know how to defend our persons, and keep inviolable our reputation, and give a ready answer by evincing arguments to scoffers and blasphemers of theology and truth, let us consult that sacred oracle, the Scriptures. Time and experience has therein produced and brought to light such a number of cases, and instances of incidents (indignity and loss by folly, and glory and safety by wisdom and prudence, &c.), that we need not be at any loss for a precedent on every occasion, especially as touching our natural and metaphysical good; for it saith of itself, *It is good for instruction, &c.*

By reading the words catalogued in our spelling-books, we can never hope to learn the art of syntax, or speaking well; for what relation is there in *ban, dan, fan, can, &c.*? or does *black, clack, jack, knack, &c.* teach a child how to dispose his words to express a sentence? Children get that by rote soonest that is ofteneft repeated to them, or they often carefully repeat; and when a boy has read a word once over in a spelling-book, peradventure such word does not again occur to him more; whereas, in the scripture-phrases, we find participles, short and long words, necessarily many times added in the reading even of

a chapter; and by these helps alone can be quickly acquired a good habit of reading and speaking with or without a book. Herein too we have the best opportunity of learning the names of figures, numerals, and stops, and their proper uses; these contain language sufficient to express ourselves on any ordinary concernment; therefore, let a child learn all the pretty, diverting, and wholesome story that holy book is able to entertain him with for a while, and as his reason increases, and his ideas shall be magnified, and as occasion requires, in respect to his intended vocation, let him apply to some dictionaries whose authority is incontestable (as Mr. *Johnson's*) for technical terms, and other reputable authors; and, as frequently as may be, converse with men of known abilities. This method, with the good fellowship of justice, mercy, and humility, can never fail of making a truly useful and worthy man.

I have conferred with a gentleman for his counsel upon my work, and his opinion concerning the present custom of spelling; and he likens the present state of our *English* language to an old house, which, he saith, a man may repair and alter; and though it be not quite commodious to his mind, yet he would chuse rather to endure such inconvenience by his house, than be at the trouble and expence to pull it down to the ground, and rebuild it. I'll make it answer my time and purpose, quoth the tenant; and why should I be at the expence for, or fatigue myself about, an hereafter? I answer, If all houses were to be made grateful to the veering humour of every man, we should have nothing but rubbish and brickbats in our way, and our streets rendered
impassable

Impassable by their alterations and reparations. But, nevertheless, when a house has been patched, patch upon patch, in time the basis gives way, and the whole will grow into a rude dilapidation, and, by adding new stuff to old, straightway the rent will certainly be made worse.

In like manner it is exactly in the case of our language; we add letters, and take them away, at pleasure, and rank words after this or that fashion, aiming to make our speech more commodious. This they essay to do, without examining the condition of the plan, institutes, or under-works, which they are erecting upon. We have built upon the old bottom as long, yes longer, than we safely can; and now there is nothing wanted, but, by a brief and royal pleasure, to pull it down, and build it entirely anew. I admit it good to amend in some cases; but our tongue can be made neither new by amendment, nor best by improvement; for the old must be wholly done away, before it can possibly be well finished or made perfect. The same gentleman also argues, That notwithstanding our language, difficult as it is, children do surmount those difficulties, and in time learn to read; and if the people would jointly give their votes for the setting forth a new language, whether or no the expence attending advertising the world with translations of the Bible, &c. and the trouble consequent, to learn two languages instead of one (for the old must be learned, said he, in order to read the present authors) would not be more considerable than the present perplexities and disadvantages we labour under? Proposals for a reformation, added he, have been propounded by different great men, those who have

have been governors in the state; but their schemes were condemned, rejected, and, as unprofitable, laid aside. I humbly answer, in respect to childrens overcoming those difficulties, some do overcome them, but very few learn to read and spell well. I may justly be allowed to say very few, when we compare those men that shine, with the vast number of ignorant and unknowing in the world; and suppose they can get over it in time, they run the gauntlet for it; and is it not madness for a patient to groan long under a sore disease, when he has so speedy and safe a remedy offered to him?

I humbly appeal to the parents of children and masters, whether, by any present method of teaching, the masters have not a laborious task, and use pains exceeding reason, to make children learn quickly, yet fall short of it? and whether the parents in general do not suppose their children are very dull and backward, or else neglected, in learning to read? Yes, they do! and, for proof, transport them up and down from school to school, upbraiding one schoolmaster's negligence, and condemning another; the childrens years increasing, but they in their learning almost but where they were at first, and the parents are incapable of finding out in whom, or in what, the deficiency lieth. Every new master promises fair; they will use their diligence, and perhaps so they do, but by a temptation they find it not in their power to bring them forward to their minds; so then it is neither the preceptor nor the pupil that is to blame, but the method whereby they are instructed, that is reproachful, and ought to be revised and corrected.

Now,

Now, instead of a boy's learning the signification of what he reads, which is the all meant and intended by words and letters, he is worried and puzzled, wasting his precious time and spirits in search of the modes and doubtfuls in spelling and pronunciation, amongst a world of rules, and a world of exceptions, and to understand where the regular confusion ends. There is no science or art that exacts more time and toil for a man to excel in, than that of reading; whereas our words ought to be so demonstrated as to be well understood in a few months; because we are not to mistake the knowledge of letters for sense and understanding; for they are no more than the mere instruments of it, the *sol fa*, and as the nine digits, an index, and the eyes of faith, whereby we can discern appearances, delineate the cause, effect, and circumstance of things. These advantages considered, well might Dr. *Watts* say, that 'the knowledge of letters is one of the greatest blessings that ever God bestowed on the children of men.' Let us take a cursory survey into the evils sequential through the barrenness of education. Learning is not always happily dignified with examples of good husbandry and conduct in life; yet where it is not, atrocious passion triumphs in the van, and reason and prudence too usually are discomfited. Without this precious guide (a kind of conscience), the man is ignorant how to demean himself as a man, and a woman how to hold in her hand a right scepter of oeconomy in her household; nor can the master enjoin with sapience, nor the servant obey with discretion. The instruction of children are neglected, because their parents know not how to admonish; and sullen selfishness,

selfishness, wrangling, rebellion, and tumult, are too frequently the horrid catastrophe.

As to a general consent of the people, it is not to be looked for. There never would have been a change in any thing, if the projectors had tarried till all were affected thereto. Suppose there was a change of language made only in the Scriptures and the service of the church; I dare say that many people would be glad to have the Scriptures set forth in that order that might be learned the most expeditious. The word of God is said to be a true and lively word; and indeed the spirit of it is so, but then we have it not set forth in a true and lively manner (and letters are the prime expositors); for our Supreme Legislator intended his testimonies should be so familiar as for all to be acquainted therewith; neither can we acquaint ourselves, or commune, with him so acceptably as in his own form or word. Hence our chiefest happiness and comfort is derived. *In God's word will I rejoice, in the Lord's word will I comfort me*, says the royal saint.

In regard to the cost of such a work, it would be national, as it would be a thing of national benefaction: And as touching the distribution of the knowledge of it to the world, by the directions for reading the alphabet, it would be procured with ease, that is, by learning the true powers of the letters; and should any man confess that he was unskilful to learn it, he would stand convicted, by such his own confession, to be a very unfit man to teach children to read, compose spellings, or write upon any such a subject; and for the trouble and time it would stand any one in, would be abundantly

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dantly inferior to their studying the meaning of *Virgil, Milton, Flaccus, or Pope*, or any of the able penmen we have had in the world.—No work, of what nature soever, when it is beginning to be made public, is supposed to be universally known, or can be, without some little diligence and application; and the study of this method would cost such a little time, that in one week at farthest, allowing an hour and half every day, a man would get master of the powers of the letters; and then he would be able to read any portion of Scripture; for all the words will upon the whole have the self-same pronunciation as before, only the superfluous unfounded letters will be pretermitted; so that the words will be very concise, although they contain and retain their perfect sound. There will be no transposition of any word, but copied word for word, and the chapters and verses stand just as they do; and therefore the alteration would not be so great as perhaps may be imagined; and, by conning it over *verbatim* with an old Bible, the whole will meet with a very easy interpretation and digestion.

How acceptable or how valuable the proposals for a reformation have hitherto been, I am unknowing of: But every one who considers my proposals must evidence that every article of it is sound, and established in all the circumstances of credibility and reality; and beg leave to assert, that none ever did or can draw a better plan for the naturalizing and making divers strange languages (as our *English* is detached from), one staunch and beneficial tongue or speech; if there be, without further testimony, cancel both my proposals and me, and bury my name and honour in the dust. And since

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there is a method abundantly able to shorten our words, and save an infinite deal of time, both in writing and printing, and render our abstruse spelling unspeakably easy and graceful, why will not these circumstances be duly thought upon, and a courageous motion made in order thereto?

The same discretion and materials requisite and fit to constitute an original language, must without scruple be peremptorily useful to amend an old one; for admit we had no sort of dialect in the world whereby to multiply our conceptions, and unbosom our intentions to one another, what better or other method should we use in order to that, than such as I have here laid down? By listening to, and considering well, what are the instruments of speech, how the mouth, tongue, and lips, are disposed in making such and such an utterance, and to contrive certain neutral or simple annotation in order to distinguish their tonings by, and transpose the order of the letters or types according to our use, and the various images we designed them to represent; for images represent images, and all thought is object, and description of object.

The knowledge of sounds have been my constant diligence for several years, both at home and in a voyage to the *Levant*: and I had an uncommon talent to that art; inasmuch as when any one spoke, my ear ran straitway through every accent and syllable of their tongue; always listening to Nature's voice in the brute creation, copying the feather'd songsters artless notes, the travallies of a drum, the key of a bell, and even the least nick that chafed a sound; and I have often thought,
that

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that had I lived in the days of old, when the tools of talk were but jejunely discovered, in the time of our unbegotten fire, or high-top *Babel's* preposterous anarchy, I should have made a very considerable progress, both in inventing the first, and also in regulating the later confounded idiom. I am not a foreigner to the present manner of sounding our letters, and the uncertain rules of prosody; for I could much facilitate the art of reading and spelling from the judgment I have in the total defects of it, and that with much less pains and time (and with fewer *Nota Bene's*) than has been expended heretofore: but it too much chequers my inclination to think of mending an old thing, when I have so much the *scientient* power to make it anew.

There is nothing I know of so great importance at present as the reforming our alphabet, and correcting the method of spelling, except subduing the rage and madness of a faithless, factious foe; and letters teach knowledge, and knowledge unity, and unity begets power and peace; which noble qualities are the strong hold and bulwark of a kingdom and people.

I am far from a favourer of new-fangled projects, where the innovation is incongruous, where the efficient seems mercenary, having more lucre in view than any intention for the public privileges, because I am very sensible what are the effects. An alteration that questions authorities, especially such a work as this, creates a great agitation in the world, and diseases the implicit minds of many. Nevertheless, all customs ought to be reprehended and rectified that are vicious and incorrect, as far

as in us lieth, unless we shall be condemned as unprofitable servants, concealing our talents in the earth, and avert the expresse designs of Providence. As, on the one hand, we ought to be greatly watchful and wary in receiving any new doctrine among us; so, on the other, we should not be too much in love with the old not to be dissuaded from it, when the former is introduced by wise counselors for just and warrantable causes.

Why should any startle at, or reproach, the motion for a reformation of the alphabet, or the compiling a sort of new language? Let the thing be pondered well, and then answer, Is there not a cause? Why should any be concerned at losing a few unuseful letters out of their own names, their lands, or their flocks. The names of neither persons nor things stand in the same order of spelling (and of course vary in accent) as they did a century past; yet now you are so well agreed to it, that you would ridicule the old: and you may depend upon it, half an age would make our children (for whom it is chiefly intended), if it could not prevail upon us, to think the same of this proposed method; for many words would be reduced to the primitive manner of spelling, and many would remain in their present order. And again, why should any grudge the expence of a publication, when they are daily subscribing to things which cannot be more beneficial to the people than this work would be? If we appraise the sundry expences the nation has been at by scheming (which beautiful projections are now emoluments to us, and lasting monuments to their glorious ancestors and patrons) we shall find the supputation will abundantly exceed that of a reformation of the
English

English language : witness the buildings, machinery, translations, and compositions. Is this a mightier undertaking, or to be wondered at more, than the compiling of *Chambers*'s, and the universal, inimitable Mr. *Johnson*'s dictionary ; the pointing and stablishing the present liturgy of the church of *England* ; the introduction of the new or *Roman* print in the room of *Old English* ; the present translation of the Holy Bible from the former translations, with the transposition of the words and version, in spelling many of those words ; *Brady* and *Tate*'s version of honest *Sternhold* and company ; and the introducing the art of printing instead of manuscript. This project, we are well assured, created a great leaven and pother among men ; for the whole body of people were obliged to learn those printing letters, as much as they will be restrained to learn the power and rule of a reformed alphabet : And furthermore, which wounded the consciences of many so much, was the late eleven days variation in point of chronology, and the blossom of the holy thorn ; but now I believe they are pretty well restored to their former soundness, and reconciled by the worthiness of such illustrious changes. No man will be obliged to learn this book no more than he will any other author ; and therefore I hope none will oppose or be displeased with it ; for, as in the case of the new version of Psalms, or translation of the Bible from the *Old English* print, &c. they may chuse and refuse as likes them best, and as they judge by practice the one preferable to the other.

Mankind in general are too zealously addicted to their ancient customs, because they understand no nearer method of negotiating affairs, neither

ther do they know what is good for themselves; for every individual thinks he has the same liberty and capacity to judge and determine, allow and disallow, any contrivance, without considering it, even as though they had made it their principal study all their life long. Opinion is termed mad, and some senior notions of things may more fitly be called preposterous than many new ones; for experience itself, though aged, may err in things, and hath often been detected by a judicious speculation; and therefore, though we cannot be wise without experience, yet experience does not always make us wise; for often we willingly do amiss, and suffer for it, and vow against it, yet are foolish enough to do the same again.

I have no other interest than the interest of the people in tendering such a plan as this; I want not to make a gain of any, but offer these proposals purely for the sake of the good I mean by it; neither do I thirst after praise myself, but for the good and honour of all men. The chief consideration I desire for my labour, is, that it may be duly deliberated upon, by wise and good men, and a publication thereof be made with all expedition. I abide

My country's most

obedient humble servant,

and well-wisher,

JOHN YEOMANS;

INTRODUCTION.

I HAVE kept an academy for some time; and the catechising and instructing my children in the method of reading, has practically pointed out to me the inconsistency, the ambiguity, and the irregularity, of the present condition of our vulgar tongue; the perplexness and difficulty of which are both unaccountable and insurmountable. Many catechists and tutors, conscious of the vast number of letts and impediments in the road to learning's musæum, and the infinite deal of labour and sorrow the pupils must undergo before they can ascend the summit of *Parnassus*; they, one by one, successively have attempted the subject of a reformation, to make learning easy, and facilitate the method of reading; but they have every one unhappily failed in their respective endeavours.

*Each left his treatise fair, and then gave out;
'Twas seeming fair, yet still there is a doubt;
Pursuant to their humour, they have chang'd,
But, for old falshood, recent error rang'd.*

After they have done all in their power, they are truly sensible it does in no wise answer the end proposed: for it is impossible to correct it by these alphabetic

alphabetic notes; children are still dull and puzzled, and made never a whit the better scholars than before. Some know there is an over-bearing remora, or obstacle, in learning, but know not how to clear it; and others know wherein the difficulty lieth: but custom, pernicious custom, confronts and out-braves them, and entirely disheartens a setting about it. Else, what sort of a demand would there be for the great numbers of spelling-books that are now extant, and doubtless are still contriving, for the benefit of children, if there was any of them all worthy to be depended upon, as cleansed of error? Was there any one formed altogether perfect, would they not then cease the publications thereof, and should not this one be one for all? It would be so; but that will never be brought to pass, till there is a reformation of the alphabet: we have been all this while building upon a false and incredible basis, and then no wonder the superstructure or complement should be false and intricate. All words are composed of one or more distinct sounds; and certainly, if there is any thing doubtful or defective in the names of the constituents or parts of those words, who can so well know them upon the whole? We speak the word in general, but do not consider it in special; and if the trumpet blasts an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself for the battle? It is just the same by the names of letters, as it is by the names of colours: suppose green was sometimes to be called blue, and sometimes purple, would it not create an everlasting anarchy and distraction? But we shall no longer bear under the reproach and scandal of our letters having such different and ill names, and the hard task of learning the *English* tongue, since I have so perfectly

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fectly established it, by shewing the powers of all literal sounds, and appointed such letters to answer these sounds, that it will be a pure and unalterable standard to all succeeding generations, and, I dare prophetic say, even to the end of the world; for I well know, and have declared, what is in the power of oral sound to do. All people, as well as ourselves, will, for the future, be able to learn our phrase in an extraordinary speedy manner; and by this method (for this may be termed method) we shall be able to correct these same errors of false names of letters, and tedious words, which are abundant in all other languages, and pronounce it after the same accent, and in a more expeditious manner, than the natives themselves, and that almost by the use of books, without the help of a teacher; which is a thing impossible at present to effect, our letters being known by such different denominations. The diphthongs, triphthongs, and double consonants, namely, *ch, cz, dg, and dj, gh, gn, kn, ph, ps, pt, rh, sc, sh, th, wr, eau, ieu, &c. ee, nor oo, nor any other double letters,* will be seen in our books, neither mentioned, but to upbraid and ridicule the former customs of teaching. Henceforth there will be no cantoning of syllables, neither any occasion for it, as there has been so much ferment and controversy about; for we shall have very few long words, no mutes, as is now falsely supposed; for letters are substituted to distinguish a sound, and what distinction is there in taciturnity? No more chanting or whining of the voice, that sickens the curious ear, and tunes the auditor to sleep; but our lectures will be natural, striking, and familiar; there will be no contending for the future, that such letters or words are written or pronounced this way, but

D they

they should be that; they are after this or that maxim, and then comes an exceptional rule to confront and unsay the previous proposition: there will be no such abominable lyings and contradiction. Our saying a word is wrote after this manner, and founded after another, is as much as to say it is not right, notwithstanding we do not pull it down and renew it. Our authors capitally err too, in asserting that words are spoken after this or that particular way, for all people in England do not pronounce their words alike, neither have we indeed letters independant and clear enough to express nicely the particular accent and manner of speaking of any people; only we guess at it in time, by hearing it often by word of mouth, not by any directions the letters help us to. No man expresses himself according to the present formation of the letters; and I am sorry, very sorry, that such important concerns as those are not looked into with a much more strict and ingenious superintendancy! There will be no *hard* words, which is such an alarming name to children, and few long words; so that we shall much sooner transcribe the thoughts of our hearts than heretofore. No *tion, sion, tial* and *cial, tious* and *cious*, &c. but *shon, shal, shous*, will be written in their room. It will be argued, perhaps, that by this method we shall be too much alienated from the protogenial languages, from whence our tongue was derived. I answer, we have swerved from them already; and if we are *Greeks* or *Latins*, let us speak *Greek* and *Latin*; but if *English*, let us speak *English*. Whether our present general establishment for pronunciation be proper or improper, we are unable to right it by the present alphabetic notes. Some men do try to speak words according

ing to the present constitution of the letters, and forsake the ordinary way, but they cannot effect one thing nor another thereby; and this manner of speaking seems partial, conceited, and pedantic: and I humbly conceive, as we allow the method of pronunciation in our nuncupative words, and clearly understand one another in our conferences without book (which is the only end and design of syllable), that we should by every means, and with all dispatch that is possible, disannul and void all impertinent sounds, and adapt letters to that method of accent and pronunciation, that the learned in general make use of and approve. And for this there must be two consonant types made, one for *sh*, and another for *th*, and the *e* will do for *au*, or *aw*, being already formed; and I would that the rites and service of the Church, and the Last Testament of our blessed Redeemer, be first translated into this order, which with great ease can be effected, and I will gladly, at all times, attend the execution thereof. The benefits whereof we shall be partakers by this amended alphabet and method, are, the saving an immense deal of time and toil, and not only useful to instruct young children in an easy and most beautiful manner, in a decimal of the time in which they are now usually learning, but also for grown up men and women that have not had either inclination or leisure for instruction in their early months. This will promote a correspondence with strangers, and create us the esteem, imitation, and commendation, of all the nations upon earth, and be conducive, in a great measure, to unity, peace, and concord; for men will naturally gather to them soonest who understand them best. By the help of this scheme the scholar will soon become ready

20 INTRODUCTION.

to leave the school; and it will be a pleasure both for the teacher to teach, and the learner to learn.

I shall now proceed to shew the confusion that befalls a scholar in his learning the gamut, or first tables of our spelling-books, and the ill names of the letters, together with instructions for reading after the new method.

When a child first begins to learn his letters, his memory is very heedlessly treacherous, and his reason impotent and unapt for imagination. His governor tells him his letters three or four times over perhaps, and then expects him to say it himself: but, alas! his hope is without success; for the letters are pronounced so many different ways, and there is such confusion in the powers of them, in giving one letter a name that there is not the least correspondence or harmony, either to please the ear or allure the attention; for was he to sound one vowel and one consonant at naming every letter, thus, *bee, see, dee, fee, gee, bee, &c.* the *ee* ending in such an agreeable gentle accent, the music of which would encourage and invite him to go through with all his letters. Next he proceeds to spell his *ba, be, &c. ca, ce, ci, co, cu, cy, kn, gn, pb, &c.* which he finds an endless torment to him, turns the edge of his inclination for knowledge, and renders the names of school and book nauseous and impallatable all the days of his apprenticeship. What spells *ca* says the master; come, don't you know what *ca* spells? *ca*, I tell you, spells *ka*. What spells *ce*? *se*, perhaps the child may say. What spells *ci*? Answer, *si*; but *co*, the child will naturally say spells *so*, as
ci,

ci, spelt *fi*. Why, you dunce, or block-head, the crusty cross-grained crab says, *co* spells *ko*; will you never know? and perhaps in his phrenzy lends him a knock upon the head: and *cy*, the child thinks should spell *fy*; but then it gainsays the syllable *co*; and so on to *ga*, *ge*, &c. where he meets with the same tantalization from the letters as he did at *ca*, &c. What spells *kno*? *keno*, he thinks it is. What spells *pbo*? the child's reason dictates to him from the sound, it spells *po*, &c. or he don't know what. Now the child, you must judge, is stricken with such amazement, both from the impediment in his letters, and his former fagging and drubbings (I don't call it correction), that he is not himself, and therefore incapable to learn. To improve by the direction of the letters he cannot, and to ask relief he dares not, for fear of a beating and upbraiding; and thus he spends day after day, in idle anxiety; he learns in pain, and his master teaches in passion and untowardness.

*'Tis not (as phras'd) the child's unapt to know,
The wav'ring letters are unapt to show.*

DIRECTIONS for Reading the New Method.

THE first thing is to teach the scholar the names of the letters as directed in the alphabet, and next their intrinsic sound or powers, which must be done by sounding *ee* before every consonant, and dwelling upon the consonants distinctly from the *ee*, thus; *ée l*, or *il*, *ée m*, or *im*. After you have sounded *ee*, the next will be the pure sound or powers of the consonants
/ and

l and *m*; and the same of all the rest. As to the vowels, their powers differ nothing from their names, for their names are contained in their powers. There would never be occasion for any other name to a letter, but the power only would serve; unless, the pure consonant sounds we made would not be sonorous enough to be heard at a distance. By this you'll know how much the toils of reading are diminished (exceedingly helpful to etymologists), for all the supererogative letters will be done away. There will be no hard words that used to frighten children, and few long ones; so that by this order both the long and short words will be so shortened, that in numerous words half or two-thirds of the letters will be left out, and yet the words will have their full and perfect sound. As all letters for the future standing any where will be known by the same name, the learner, so soon as he is taught the pure sounds of his letters, and how to join the consonants with the vowels in the first tables for spelling, would be able to read in any book, indifferently the same to him, even, I may say, without the help of a tutor. Children would learn by nature one among another, the names of the letters, if they were to call them *bee*, *dee*, *fee*, *gee*, *hee*, *jee*, &c. their final sound rhymes and jingles in such a musical manner; whereas now all the art in the world cannot incline their hearts to their books, and inveigle them to learn their lessons.

THE

T H E
A B E C E D A R I A N,

O R,
Comment upon the ALPHABET.

What is sound?

VOICE or sound is either articulate or inarticulate, and is the effect of innumerable causes, the grinding or striking together, and the bursting of bodies asunder. The understanding ear best proves it; tho' the deaf man can discern its tremblings, and its loud thunderings can shake the whole earth, and even terrify the wicked into obedience and duty.

What are articulate sounds or word-notes?

These can be well understood and performed only by the human species, to whom alone they are needful. As man is a reasonable soul, and authorized to be the awarder and governor of the universe, of a frail and forgetful constitution, these are to relieve his memory by records, and reveal his will, to communicate counsel and understanding to the ignorant and unlearned, or, as the wise man expresses it, *to give subtilty to the simple.*

If

— If the will of the divine Majesty was so, much of the brute creation, having the proper instruments of speech, could converse : but as silence frequently is a token of resignation and submission amongst men, so the beasts come forth unarmed and dumb, that they shall not enter into parley or contend with their rulers, nor by any provoking speeches to animate their power to hot indignation ; for albeit many men are such monsters as to cruelly treat their laborious unfree servants, opening not their mouths ; yet if they were to use any pert resistance with the tongue, no doubt but they would be treated with much sharper usurpation and tyranny ; which indeed ere now has sallied to such a heighth, that even a dumb beast has declared his grievance : and some men are so unreasonable, and such tormentors on earth, that it is a vulgar proverb, “ They are enough to make the very “ stones to speak.” Some birds and beasts speak articulately, tho’ not by any dint of human reason, but by some innate impulse or exemplification, as the cuckoo, parrot, &c. All the enlivened material world have a proper language amongst themselves, whereby they deliver their sentiments, and express their assent or consent, pleasure or pain, loss or prosperity, even to men as well as to one another ; and many of our words take their name from the imaginary sounds those creatures are supposed to make ; as bow-wow of a dog, freaming of a boar, gaggle of geese, croaking of a rook, quacking of a duck, hissing of a snake, wheeking of a pig, humming of a horse, croo or cooing of a turtle, humming or buzzing of a bee or fly, chuckling of cocks and hens, &c.

What

What are letters?

Letters are the images or notes to inform the mind in speaking, to point out to us our distinct sounds by certain stoppings of the breath, by the proper implements of speech, which being transposed and changed in a wonderful and infinite manner, compose those words whereby we reveal our will, curse and bless, or pray, or sing praises to the Almighty Being that brought us into life for those superior and ineffimable benefits of speaking and reasoning.

How are these letters distinguished?

By vowels and consonants.

What are the consonants?

Consonants are those letters which have but a short, muttering, inward sound, and so confined to such a pitch of the voice, that there is no possibility of either lengthening or shortening, raising their sound higher, or falling it lower; and are never used (except the *l*) to express a word without a vowel: the *l* is a vowel in *ble*, *e* not being founded.

Pray what is a vowel?

A vowel is an accent of the voice that may be breathed out either low or stentorian, flat or in alt, just at the election of the speaker, without one or more of which no syllable or word is or can be composed.

It is generally allowed there are six vowels, including the Greek vowel y; pray how many literal sounds are we able to render loud and vociferous?

Eight, a, e, i, o, u, w, y, l.

Please to demonstrate them to me.

A

Is rank'd the first letter in the order of every alphabet; but the citizens of *London* have injuriously converted its eligible pronunciation to that of *e*. Sometimes we give this letter the sound we use in *aw*, as *ball*, *all*, &c. and yet some have the vanity to think that it is the double *l* makes it sound so; whereas the *l* only answers to its own sound, and is no way concerned with *aw*; and consequently what is not concerned neither adds to, neither diminishes; for a single *l*, having *aw* preceding, would make it sound broad, and if a double *l*, or twenty *ells*, were placed after it, and we were to give it its proper sound *ah*, it would only sound short, as *bal*, *al*; so that it is the change of the vowel *a*, and not the additional *l*, that lengthens or shortens it.

E

Borders upon the instruments of speech that form the sound we minister to *ee*; it is somewhat sharper than the *a*, yet not so shrill as the *ee*, tho' we often give it that sound, as *wee*, *bee*, for *we*, *be*, &c. It is always sounded, tho' extremely wrong, as *u*, in *burnt*, *bur*, and *Novembur*, *Decembur*, for *November* and *December*; *Bricklayur*,
Stay-

Staymakur, for *Bricklayer* and *Staymaker*. It has sometimes its proper sound at the ending of words, as *Lethé*, *brevé*, &c. but in most, if not all, *English* words, where it is made final, it is so far from lengthening the sound of a word, as is falsely supposed, that it is never sounded at all; and therefore, with humble submission, must be abolished. For, as in the case of *a*, it is the change of the sound in the antecedent vowel, that either lengthens or shortens the word.

*Remark the mighty, grand, despotic E,
That overturns the sound of C and G.*

DYCHE'S Spell. fol. 80.

I

Is neither a vowel nor a consonant. If I was to ask the mightiest letter-learned man in the world, whether *I* was a vowel or a consonant? he would a little marvel at such a question, because he would think it was universally accepted as a vowel, and as such he readily received it, (as I did myself, till a perfect knowledge of the letter discontinued my opinion); but there would be wonder mixed with indignation, when I should tell him it was neither a vowel nor a consonant. The signification of this letter used to be co-equal with the *j*, but now they have quite separate offices; yet some, and in *London* particularly, make no distinction in either the name or application of these two letters. See *J*.

What do you say then this letter is, if neither a vowel nor a consonant?

Two distinct vowels blended into one character; the former of which is that tone we apply to *u*,

in *bunt*, *bunt*, *sunt*, &c. and the latter is the sound we give *ee*, thus, *uee*, expressed quickly, composes the *i* long; and for once it has that long sound of *uee*, it is sounded, may be, more than a dozen times *ee*; as *pin*, *sin*, *win*, in the room of *pine*, *sine*, *wine*. For it is not the *e* final that has any thing to do with lengthening the sound, but the *i* long.

Have we no letter in our alphabet to represent the sound ee or ye, but double e?

No; and that is no more a token of such sound, than a red lion is to the image of a wind-mill; for when we write these two letters, and call them *ee*, or *ye*, we justly imitate the painter who was famous for limning nought but wind-mills, who, upon being sent for by an honest ale-draper to stain him a lion, instead of that he drew a wind-mill, and under-wrote, *This is the red lion*. As *i* is a double vowel, it is necessary to be wrote where it is to be sounded long, and import no other signification; *ee* is sounded always, tho' short, between *c a* and *k a*, thus, *ceea* and *keea* makes *ca* and *ka*.

What character would you use then for ee, if i is always to be sounded long?

To be sure *y* is the best letter, it having already that sound at the beginning of all words, and at the end too, unless of monosyllables.

What is the true sound of double e? are not double letters sounded?

You give me joy at this question, you are so usefully inquisitive. There is never more than one letter

letter founded at a time in any word, and more than one are no more needful to be wrote than one thousand. We much condemn the *Walesmen* for writing so many double consonants and double letters in their words, and yet we ourselves are exemplar in the thing we so vainly explode and rail against.

What is the reason that the learned write double letters and edipthongs in words, if they are no way serviceable?

Because habit, without enquiring into the principles and components of which the words are made up, is become a law; and it is so, merely because it used to be so, imitating and depending on the judgment of the *Latins*, who indeed, in regard to the respective sounds they made use of, meant nicely in writing dipthongs and copulated vowels; but then they were mistaken in printing improper types to represent such sounds. They had, as we by tradition falsely have, a strong notion that a double letter, or two letters alike together, render the sound twice as long as a solitary one. We verily do sound a letter twice so long at one time as at another; but then neither edipthongs nor double letters are the proper banners or notes to make that distinction. I think, tho' the *Helenists* greatly err in calling their letters by such tedious names, yet they are very punctual concerning their emphasis and dieresis; but the *Europeans* need not be so particular, in regard of notifying long and short letters, for custom, in ordinary conversation, would make that perfect and easy. In regard to double letters, we never sound them, as is proved by the ensuing examples
in

in *Johnson*, *Williamson*, and *charcoal*, notwithstanding there is but one *s* used in *Johnson*, and one *c* in *chark-coal*, yet it has the self-same sound as when we write two *ss*'s and two *cc*'s, thus: *John's son*, *William's son*, and *charc-coal*; and *dis-appoint*, the same as *dissappoint*. Therefore, where a word ends with the same letter its consequent word begins, there is but one of these letters sounded.

It is high time to abdicate all those double letters, dipthongs, and tripartite letters, to wit, *æ*, *œ*, *oa*, *au*, *ea*, *ii*, *ic*, *ui*, *ou*, *eau*, *ieu*, since they do not at all mimic the sound we attribute to them, unless they are particularized by a dieresis. Would it not appear more seemly to every reasonable man who doth not stoop too much to custom's pagod, nor suffers his implicit fancy to prevail against just judgment, who is not ready to strike to any opinion without knowing of his own knowledge; I say, would it not be more pertinent to vary the edipthongs and tripthongs in the following manner and words? Thus: to write *ded* rather than *dead*, for we have the same reason and authority to write *a*, in *fled*, as in the word *dead*, *Febus*, *Fenix*, *Demon*, and *buty*, *bo*, *nu*, instead of *Phæbus*, *Phœnix*, *Dæmon*, *beauty*, *beau*, and *knew*; and to make this absurdity still more unjustifiable, some take upon them to write these dipthongs entirely disjoined. In some words we place all double letters, because to be sure it shall be full enough (as we call it) as in *wooll*, *woo*, &c. whereas there are but two sounds in *wool*, thus, *wl*, or *ool*, and one sound in *woo*, thus, *w*, or *oo*; and we might with equal propriety write *wiill* for *will*, though it would for certain be condemned

ned as foolish and improper, yet it is not a wit more so, than in the manner we now write.

O,

Like the *i*, usually goes under two denominations, one of which pronounces its proper name, in *bone, stone, lo, no, &c.* and the other is the sound we sing to *aw*, only it is but just half so long: thus, *on, John, yon, don*, and this truth the ear can certify by this instance, namely, if the sound of *o* in *yon, don*, was to be continued or drawl'd out, it would perfectly answer to *yawn, dawn*. Now the letters *aw*, do not purely betoken the sounds we account to them, neither is there a letter at present in the alphabet that does; for *aw* is but a single sound, therefore I think it a queer, nay impracticable thing, that a single sound should be annotated by two letters, when neither jointly nor separately these letters have any sort of representation of the sound we give them. Semi-tones are useful in music, but quite the contrary in letters. This letter is sounded *aw* short many times, for once it has its due sound *oh*. We give it the tone that we appoint to *oo*, in *Rome, &c.* sometimes it bears the name of *u*, as *lur, abur*, for *love, above, &c.* We much want a character for the sound we give *aw*, and I think *æ* for a writing letter, and *æ* for a printing, are very good ones.

U

Is a grand pyrate surely, for he goes by four or more ambiguous names, i. e. *you*, alias *oo*, alias the sound it has in *bunt, bunt, &c.* alias *e*, in *bury,*

bury, &c. This, like the *i*, is not a single vowel as imagined, but two vowels comprized in one character; the anterior one has the sound we give *ee*, and the posterior that of *oo*, thus, *eeoo*, spoken with a rapid utterance, composes the *you* or *u*. This letter answers to its proper name in *mute, due, duty.*

N. B. As the pronoun *I* is as surely two letters as *u*, and yet wrote in an indivisible character, why may we not be allowed as lawful, for the sake of abridgment, to write *u* thus, *U* have, or *U* have not, *U* can, or *U* cannot, in the stead of *you*, the second and third persons, as well as *I* represents the first person?

W

Is a single sound, and unjustly ordered among the consonants; but it is peremptorily a vowel, answering always to the sound we give *oo*.

How do you make that appear?

I'll tell you how *w* was introduced: undoubtedly you have seen in obsolete books, two *v*'s placed together thus, *vv*; well, in days of old, *v* was called *u*, or *oo*, being no difference in name between that and the *u*; now our great-grandfathers falsely supposing that two *v*'s placed together sounded longer than one, wrote them after the above sort, and in process of time became inherent, as at present you see the *w*; and where soever this letter is placed, if it is sounded at all, has the certain utterance we give *oo*, only its tone is but half so long as the *oo*.

The

Y,

The learned assert, when it begins a syllable, is a consonant, and ending a word or syllable it is a vowel. But that is false doctrine, and what I must diametrically oppose; for, in the beginning and ending of all words, it has the self-same sound of *i*, and in the beginning of words it infallibly sounds like *ee* short, as *ynka*, *yesterday*, *yu*, or *eeoo*, and as *Italy* is spelt in a translation of *Virgil*, thus, *Ytaly*, or *Eetaly*. This letter, with *ld*, thus, *yld*, or *eeld*, perfectly sounds *yield*, and far more seemly than to write either *yield*, *yeild*, or *yeeld*, as it has ere now been wrote. For which reason it cannot be a consonant in any place, but as verily a vowel as the *i*; and the name we give it bears no more affinity to the sound we give it, than if we were to call it by the name *fy*, in the place of *evy*. I would have this letter answer *ye* in the second person plural, as well as *I* does in the first person singular.

N. B. It is the sound we give a letter, and not the place where it stands, that makes it a vowel or a consonant.

L,

Tho' called a consonant, is as surely a vowel as the *e*. It is sharp, and forms a syllable without the help of another vowel, as *bl*, *cl*, *pl*, *sl*, *tl*; for the *e*, being fixed abaft, is there a neutral letter, wherefore has nothing at all to do with the government of it. The *Welsh* write *ll* in *Lloyd*, &c. and the reason is, because they think, or have thought at least, that there is a low, gentle sound succeeds the *l* being sounded audible, and therefore they sign it with another *l*.

F.

But

But they fail in their supposition; for the sound of the first *l* is too rapidly united with the next adjoining character for the sound of another *l* to be distinguished. We might as well, when we write a *d*, always posite *t* after it, or *p* after *b*, as in *Campbell*, thus, *Cambpell*, which would be proper, instead of *Campbell*, a man's surname.

Of the C O N S O N A N T S.

How many consonants are there single?

Sixteen, inclusive of the two sounds we give *th* and *sh*, which are really two consonants, because they cannot be sounded audible, *viz.*

b, d, f, g, h, k, m, n, p, r, s, t, v, z.

sh th

R, æ, new characters.

As to *c*, the *k* and *s* are officials in its room, therefore may be excluded that signification; but always, in the New Method, I would have it answer to the sound we give *u* in *bun, fun, gun, &c.* thus, *gcñ, fcñ, bcñ, &c.*

dh koo ecs

J, q, x, are double sounds, and their use is not indispensable; but, for the sake of epitome, it is expedient to retain them in the alphabet.

B

Is pretty simple in its signification, and it is wrote in the place of *v* in several words, as *probation* for *provation*, *probe* for *prove*, or search into, &c. It is made by the same organs of speech as *p*; and, when it ends a word, a soft, whispering gust of breath,

breath, which sounds *p*, immediately succeeds it. As to its representing the bleating of a sheep, as the antients reported, is a mere fable and superstition ; and I am astonished to think, that men of sense and learning will chronicle and countenance so barefac'd a delusion. This letter cannot be founded without the attachment of the lips ; and I am rather disposed to think it the undirected voice of a *b* or *e*, instead of *b*, that our fathers heard from the sheep-folds. Their bleatings are most comparable to the weeping of infants, as soon as they come to the birth, ere they have any sense or reason to conduct their feeble accents. As this letter is never heard, so it ought never to be written, in *doubt*, *dumb*, *plumb*, &c.

C

Is a crooked ensign of a *double entendre*, and therefore should be ejected, and *k* or *s* supply its room. Sometimes this mark is founded like *s* ; at others (no good sign) he goes by the name of *k*, alias *q*, as in the word *accept*. How tantalizing this must be to a child ! If *cept* spells *sept*, a *c* he thinks indeed his ear informs him, by the same rule, will undeniably spell *afs*, and not *ack* ; and in *sceptic*, because *c* follows the *s*, many men of very good sense will pronounce it *septic*. But I wonder not at their stumbling, since the letters, instead of being a path, conduct them out of the way ; and truly every one has a better claim by reason's law to call it *septic* than *skeptic*. Men and things are not looked upon clear nor lawful which go by ambiguous names ; for there is always something clandestine in *alias*.

36 The A B C E D A R I A N.

N. B. For *c* to have its name changed before *e* and before *a*, is just as preposterous as for my name to be *John* when I follow you, but when I follow another it must be *Jinkin*. I would have this letter classed in the vowels, and always answer to the sound *u* has in *pun*, *gun*, *fun*; thus, *pcn*, *gcn*, *fcn*.

D,

Mr. *Dyche* maintains, has the sound of *th*. But this I must flatly deny; for it has not the least sameness or homogeneity to it. It is formed by the same organs of speech as *t*, and is audible to *t*'s low sound, and sometimes wrote for it, as *Davy* for *Taffy*, and often *t* is sounded for the termination *ed* or *'d*. See *Th*.

F

Is a simple sound, and, being pronounced aloud, speaks *v*, and imports the singular number, as *wife*, *knife*, *life*, and *v* the plural, as *wives*, *lives*, *knives*.

G

Has always been called a single consonant; but it is sometimes a single, sometimes a double one, and soundeth singly in the words *gave*, *gain*, *grant*, &c. but twofold, like *j* or *dsh*, in *German*, *gender*, *Gentiles*, &c. The inward sound to *g*, as it is pronounced in *gave*, *give*, &c. at the endings of words, whispers or speaks a *k*. I would have this letter always used as in *give*, *gave*, and depute *j* to officiate in its room in the words *Jerman*, *jender*, *Jentiles*. I would have its name *gee*.

I don't

I don't rightly understand what you mean by inward sound.

I mean that whispering, dying afflation of the breath, which is breathed immediately after the *g* is founded, the same as *t* founded after *d*, and *p* after *b*. It is in fact the aspirate *h*, stopt by the linguist in different places of the mouth.

H

Is never founded, particularly at the end of a word. It has a simple signification, and is beyond all scruple a letter. We should know the miss of it a little at first, if we were to part with it now; but if it had never been introduced to us, the loss would have been none, for we have no peremptory use for it. This letter denotes a gentle inspiration or aspiration; and a man without a tongue, lips, or teeth, is capable to pronounce it. It is the staff of life: by this aspirate we form all vocal sound, and the first and last symptom of life that a man has at both his springing into and fading out of the world.

*When men to breathe the letter H shall end,
Their bodies to the solemn tombs descend.*

The name of this letter is a very ill one, bearing no more connection to the sound we give it, than *z* to the sound of *w*.

J.

This letter used to differ nothing from the *i*, but now it is quite abstracted from it. It has a two-fold speech, which answers to *dsh*; thus, writing *Dskon*, *Dshoan*, *dshoin*, spoken quick, actually pronounces *John*, *Joan*, *join*. See *Ch*, *G*, and *I*.

K Differs

K

Differs nothing in sound from *q*, but, being pronounced noisy, forms a *g*. See *G*.

M

Has always one and the same humming sound: at times *n* is sounded in its room, as *cherubin* for *cherubim*, and *seraphin* for *seraphim*.

N

Has an immutable humming sound. It ought and must, with the privy of the learned, be exterminated in the words *bymn*, *damn*, *kiln*, &c.

P. See B.

As this letter is never heard, it ought to be omitted in *consumption*, *presumption*, *empty*, *attempt*, *receipt*, &c. for the verb is *consume*, *presume*, &c.

Q

Is a very unnecessary letter as it now stands, since our grammarians will always have a *u* along side of it; for why would not *k* or *c* be as proper, if *u* must always be the consequent of it? Tho' I think truly necessary this letter should remain in the alphabet as a double letter, and constantly answer to the name of *cu* or *koo*, the same as the double consonant *x* represents *ks* or *cs*; and then it would be quite superfluous and super non-sensical to have *u* postfixed to it, since the sound of *u* or *oo* would with *k* be contained in the character; thus, *kookoo*, *quiet*, would be amply and modestly expressed in *qq*, and *qiet*; for wherein is the service of a double character,

character, if we write the letter before it or after it that are contained in it? *e. g.* in *except*, I don't see any real occasion for *c*, forasmuch as *x* includes its sound; and again, in *judge* and *judgment*, as I observed at the letter *g*, the *g* comprizes *d* (and *sh*, which is the other sound); and therefore to prefix a *d* is very unseemly and erroneous. See *Dg*.

R

Is a single, coarse sound; and, I have heard, the *Chinese*, and other foreigners, change it into *l*.

S

Has a particular hissing sound, perfectly assimilated by boys setting dogs foul of one another, or the opponent to the loud acclamation in a theatre. This exfibilation is the voice of the serpent, and also a vocative sign or beckon amongst the *Portuguese*; it being sounded audible, pronounces *z*, and is made by the same instruments of utterance. See *Z*.

T

Is permitted, nay commanded, to be sounded like *sh* in *tion*, *tial*, *tian*; but of all things it is the most pseudous, foolish, and imperfect. See *D*.

V

Is verily a consonant; tho' in days of yore it was, and even now by the unlearned it is, sounded like *u*, and *u* had the nomination of *v*; but whosoever insists now on its differing nothing in name and use from *u*, is guilty of a very great impertinence. See *U*.

X Is

X

Is a double consonant, and comprizes *ks*. It is founded like *z* in *Xerxes*, *Xantippe*, *Xenophon*, *Xenophilus*; but it is an apparent mistake, for we don't write *Zeno* with *x*, and, according to that rule, we should. This letter *x* or *ks* alters its sound to *gz* in some words, as in *example*, *examine*, thus, *egzample*, *egzamine*, &c. See *K* and *S*.

Z

Is made by the same instruments of speech as *s*, and counterfeits its sound in pluralizers, or words in the genitive case, as, *This is the King's horse*; *A man that eats his wordz is not to be rested on*. This letter is always founded instead of *s* coming next after *b*, *d*, *g*, *v*, but cannot be founded after *p*, *t*, *k*, *f*. Tho' we write it in *Fitz*, we only found *Fits*; for *z* is not pronounced unless *d* precedes it thus, *Fidz*.

What remarks have you on the following double consonants, viz. th, sh, ch, cz, di, dg, gh, gn, hn, ph, pf, pt, rh, sc, wh, wr?

Ch

Are two distinct consonants; and, whenever we found them, their sound exactly agrees with those we use in *tsh*; so that the sound of *t*, and not of *c*, always begins the words *Charles*, *chance*, *China*, *child*; and, e. g. to prove that the sound we give *tsh* is absolutely founded, and not *cb*, I'll write them in the following words, to wit, *Tsharles*, *tshance*, *Tshina*, *tshild*. These sounds being first particularly founded, and then rallied together, the reader will easily discern, answer the sounds we give
cb

ch in *Charles*, *chance*, *China*, *child*. These sounded audible forms *j*, *g*, or *dsh*, and sometimes wrote for it, as *ostridg*, *cartridg*, in the room of *ostrich*, *cartouch*. As there is no character in the alphabet particularly to answer those sounds, I think the *c* inverted a very beneficial one for that purpose, thus (c). It is sounded like *sh* in *chaise*, *machine*, *capuchine*. When *ch* is wrote in words of a Greek descent, the *c* only is sounded like *k*, and the *h* stands an idler; and as the *Greeks* themselves very prudently write but one letter for it, why can't we begin those words with *k*, and not leave any body the least leisure for scandal, censure, or ridicule? *Ch* must be utterly abolished in *schism*, *school*, *scheme*, and instead thereof *fism*, *skool*, *skeme*.

N. B. The *t* is written as well as sounded in the words *witch*, *bitch*, *hitch*, &c. and omitted in *much*, *such*, *touch*, &c. tho' as certainly sounded.

Th

Is a simple consonant sound, and the *Greeks* have but one character for it; yet we, monstrous imagination! suppose we sound both *t* and *h*, when at the same time we sound neither. These letters are sometimes written for *d*, as *murder* for *murtber*, *Deus* for *Theos* or *Theus*, *faddom* for *fathom*, *padre* and *fader* for *patber* and *father*. But it is not the least similar to *d*. I have heard the *Portuguese*, at their parting, or giving the time of the day, sound *th* thus, *Atheus* or *Atheos*, *Seignior*; that is, God be with you, or his blessing wait on you. All men cannot (tho' all men are able to learn) pronounce this sound; which we cannot avoid making, if we breathe against the tongue, shoved a little out, and

G

rested

rested against the upper teeth. As I observed, two sounds, for the sake of contraction, may be comprized in one letter; but it is the most ungrounded thing imaginable to write two letters for only one sound.

Sh

Is but an individual sound; and the *Hebrews*, conscious of that, write but one character; tho' we, fantastic without judgment or justice, write two. I conceive that the *k*, turned upside down thus (x), would be quite appropo to represent it. This sound is personated in frightening oviparous animals; and also, when the wind is constrained to blow thro' narrow bars or gratings, it blasts the like sound. This sound is founded for *t* and *s* in *version*, *termination*, &c. It differs but little in sound from *s*, and is frequently wrote in its stead.

Cz

Czar ought, must be written *Zar*, as the *c* is not founded; for would any mortal man think that *Czar* was a note for *Cæzar*? Indeed, unless it was described, no one would conceive it to be of any such etymology; and it may be graphisted from *Zar* as well as from *Czar* every bit.

Dg and Dj

Are altogether ignorant and superfluous; for *j* having one and the self same sound with it, ought constantly to be wrote in its place. *G* itself, as I observed at that letter, contains *d*; therefore to write *dg* or *dj* in words, is in effect just the same as double *d*: but I hope the learned will grant that *dg* shall be relinquished, and *j* reside in its room; for then how concise and familiar would it be in the

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the words *judge* and *adjective*, to write *juj* and *ajejive*. It would be much objected against, if I was to write *dgudg*, or *dj*, or *dguj*, for *judge*; yet I could justly vindicate it, because *dg* and *dj* would have the same specific sound in the beginning as it hath in the middle of a word. See *ſ*.

Dg is founded for *ch* in *Richmond*, &c. as *Ridgmond*.

Gh.

Neither *g* nor *h* is founded where they end, and *g* only where they begin words; therefore, I humbly crave a fiat from the grammarians to pretermitt the *h* in the beginning of a word, as *gost*, not *ghost*; and at the ending, as *hi*, *ni*, *fi*, for *high*, *nigh*, *figh*.

Gn.

When *gn* either begin or end a word, the sound of *g* is wholly omitted; wherefore I think the letter ought too, for it only serves to perplex young minds; for things no way beneficial are always in the way.

Kn.

The *Scotians* very particularly sound *k* before *n* in *known*, *knife*, *knot*, &c. but it is an unseemly, useless sound; therefore, by all means, and with all malice, it must be rejected.

Ph.

We give these letters the sound of *f* (except in *phthifical*) where they begin and end words or syllables; but they are no more concordant to that

G 2

sound,

found than *Frederick* is to *John*. The *Greeks* have but one type to annote this found; and whatever could be the motive of our introducing *pb* to answer that found, I believe no body now rightly understands. When a child is asked, what spells *pba*? his reason tells it is *pa*; therefore, as these letters are so doubtful to the learner, they must be disannulled, and *f* always supply their place: thus, *Filip*, *Filemon*, *Josef*, for *Philip*, *Philemon*, *Joseph*.

Pf.

Some people in the world are such zealots to party, both to letters as well as men, that they sound *p* where *ps* begin a word, notwithstanding its found there is so very uncouth and troublesome for the instruments of speech to utter. I think it explicitly necessary, with the ratification of my cousin Abecedarians, to supplant the letter *p*, as we would a pestilent weed, and write *salm*, *sudo*, *saltery*, in the place of *psalm*, *psudo*, *psaltery*.

Pt.

Here the *p* is not sounded, and therefore we must write the *t* without it; as *Tolomy*, instead of *Ptolomy*, and the like.

Rh.

Here *b* is not heard, therefore should be omitted, as in *retoric*, *ryme*, and *ream*, and not *rhetic*, *rhyme*, and *rbeam*.

Sc.

Sc.

As the *c* is proposed to be left out of the consonants, and to sound as the vowel *u* doth in *bunt*, *k* must be wrote for it, as *skem*, *skeptic*, &c. for *scbeme*, *sceptic*; and in the words *science*, *conscience*, it must be done away, and *s* serve alone; thus, *siens*, *consiens*.

Wh.

These letters are very imperfectly disposed, for *b* is absolutely founded before *w*; and formerly they have been wrote so, as the archives of antiquity can certify; namely, *bwo*, *bwen*, *bwere*, for *who*, *when*, *where*. I will give a physical definition of it, with an intent to render this doubt indubitable, how *b* actually forefounds the *w*. *H* is unquestionably nothing but the breath; then of course that breath is first afflated, and the *w* or *oo* next is stopt in or by such breath: and now, and never before, was this mighty mystery made not a secret.

Wr.

The *w* was first introduced before *r* purely thro' fancy; forasmuch as the sound of *w* (or *u*, as it is founded in *fun*, *gun*) is neighbouring to, and naturally falls in with, the instruments of speech that form *r*; and some are so affected as to sound *w* before *r* in the beginning of words, as in *writing*, *wreath*, *wrong*; they say *ooriting*, *ooreath*, *oorong*. But this is as unwarrantable as to write *w* always before *r*, wheresoever it stands; for which reason it must be forgotten in the beginning

ginning of words and syllables, and *r* supply its place; thus, *riting*, *reatb*, *rong*.

You intimate as though each word ought to be spelt pursuant to their respective pronunciation.

To be sure I do; and why should they not? What is the intent and signification of our ordering a set of letters in a word, but to strictly exemplify those sounds which are commodious to apply to them?

It will be alledged that the foregoing double consonants and other letters, though not sounded, are useful, for distinction's sake.

I answer, such allegation is invalid; for nothing is capable of distinguishing or making clear, but what of itself is really so. Neither do the learned themselves always make this a difference of varying the letters in words where the signification alters, and yet their sounds be univocal. e. g. The word *charge* has a four-fold sense, as *blame*, a *tax*, *pultice*, *command*; and *rail* also bears a quadrupartite sense, as, a *bird*, a *woman's dress*, a *partition*, and *accusation*; *grave* imports a *pit*, *sobriety*, *solemn*, a *cutting in wood or stone*; *colon* implieth a *gut* or *nomble*, and a *point in printing*; a *berse* signifies a *barrow* and a *funeral carriage*; and the word *pelican*, not only means a *bird*, but also a *surgeon's instrument*; and the like. It is unaccountable how many words change in meaning, yet are one both in speaking and spelling: yet I do not discover any sort of let or confusion attending it, but can very safely say, that there is a far greater denial occasioned by making additional letters in a word

not

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not to be founded, than to spell words alike having the like sound, though they should vary in their significations.

It may be said, very probably, that after this manner we shall not be able to distinguish one thing from another.

To which I reply, that the words before and after will sufficiently teach us their meaning. For, suppose I said, *U* or *You* wept, it does not imply, nor no one would imagine, there was any sadness or lacrymation in the double vowel, but *you* the second person singular or plural. Again, the same of *to*; if I should say, He came *to* town, no one would think I meant any thing was *too* extreme, or *two*-fold; and of *two*, the contrary, &c. In the case of *too*, if we were to be universal in our distinction, we should write *too e* for *too* much, and *too* for *also* or *likewise*; as, He was in love, and she *too*. When I commune with another without book, though my phrase be universal, having separate intentions, he is at no loss at all to understand me; then how can he mistake the sense of my words when he reads them in a book?

Of Double Letters. See J. O.

Of the Diphthongs, Triphthongs, and Double Letters,
æ, oe, oa, ea, au or aw, eu or ew, ou or ow,
ie, ui or uy, ieu, eau, ee, oo, ii.

These double vowels ought to be entirely set aside, since they are never founded unless divided by a dieresis; therefore serve to puzzle, not direct,

rect, the learner. Those vowels have been old standards in words for many ages, and been esteemed beneficial to man; but they are so far from being good, that they are very desperate, and therefore must now be done away. Let them be invented by whomsoever they will, they failed in their project; and, now we are become better judges, we refuse to gesticulate the modes of spelling by any nations upon earth. For what can we expect to learn by copying after those that are less ingenious than ourselves? With humble submission, instead of writing the double and treble letters in the old way, I take the liberty of writing according to the following manner and constitution, which I solemnly protest to be lawful, just, and true. To wit,

Febus, not *Phæbus*; *Demon* instead of *Dæmon*, *fenix* for *phænix*, *Etna* for *Ætna*, *economy* for *oecconomy*, *ded* and *bred* for *dead* and *bread*, *se* and *te* for *sea* and *tea*, *æful* for *awful*, *jakdæ* for *jackdaw*, *æster* for *austere*, *fud* for *feud*, *fu* and *nu* for *few* and *new*, *pypl* for *people*; and instead of pronouncing *ou* and *ow* after the rustic fashion, it would be much more amiable and smooth to call them as the *Scotch* always, and we often, do, by a single vowel, thus: *fwl* or *fool* for *foul*, *lwd* or *lood* for *loud*, *lw* or *loo* for *low*, *nw* or *noo* for *now*, *wld* for *would*, &c. *bot* and *flot* for *boat* and *float*, *bryf* and *ryf* for *brief* and *chief*, *frend* and *yld* for *friend* and *yield*; *jus* and *frwt* for *juice* and *fruit*, *bi* and *gi* for *buy* and *guy*, *adu* and *lu* for *adieu* and *lieu*, *buty* and *bo* for *beauty* and *beau*, *myt* and *wd* for *meet* and *woodd*.

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The old Alphabet, with the proper Names of each Letter, together with the additional Characters, accommodated to the New Method.

Single CONSONANTS.

b *by*, always to be founded as *bee* with one consonant and one vowel.

d <i>dy.</i>	h <i>hy.</i>	m <i>my.</i>	r <i>ry.</i>	v <i>vy.</i>
f <i>fy.</i>	k <i>ky.</i>	n <i>ny.</i>	s <i>sy.</i>	z <i>zy.</i>
g <i>gy.</i>	l <i>ly.</i>	p <i>py.</i>	t <i>ty.</i>	

Double LETTERS.

j *jj*, to be written always in *German*, *Jentiles*, &c. See *Dg* and *J*.

q *k-o*, to answer the sounds *qu* in *quere*, *quiet*, &c. See *Q*.
x *eks*.

New Letters.

o *oy*, to be wrote for *ch* in *churms*, *chin*, thus, *oarmz*, *oyn*. See *Ch*.

x *xy*, to be wrote for *sh*, as *xy* for *she*, *xæl* for *shall*. See *Sh*.

æ *ey*, to be wrote for *th*, as *æe* for *the*, *ey* for *thee*, *eyk* for *thick*. See *Th*.

V O W E L S.

Single.

a to be founded like *u* in *hunt*, &c. See *C*.
y to be founded like *ee*, and to answer the second person plural. See *Y*.

o
æ or æ, like *aw*.
w like *oo*.

l

Double.

u to imply the second person, namely, *U*, instead of *You*.
See *U*.

i is always to be founded long. See *I*.

The Writing-Hand for the New Characters.

æ or aw.

ʏ or fh.

ʒ or ch.

ʒ or th.

Note, These new letters are only the *c k e* inverse, which are made as expeditious, join as well, and look every bit as neat, as any we have already in the alphabet. Formerly the grammarians and typographers were much distressed for commodious characters; for our printing *d* being transposed, forms the *p q b*, and the *h n* inverse makes *u y*. The *V* capiz'd, with a line athwart it diagonal-wise, constitutes our major *A*.

Letters formed by the same Instruments of Speech.

Hard.

Gentle or whispering.

b

p

d

t

g

k

v

f

z

s

ʒ thy

ʒ thin.

In former alphabets, no two authors ever yet agreed in naming, neither was there any form at all in the names of the letters; for sometimes, in giving the consonants names, the vowels would precede the consonants, and otherwise the consonants preceded the vowels, as in spelling *bee dee* the consonant comes first, but in *ell em* the vowel. It was never considered, that, in order to make the names of the letters short and complete, the vowels must continually forego the consonants, or the consonants continually forego the vowels. There could not have been given our *b w y* more inconsistent titles than those our Lexicographers and Abecedarians at present permit. But I have now avoided this scandal, and write only a single vowel and a single consonant in giving each letter a name; which two sounds

sounds are quite sufficient to make a monosyllable, and, what is more, inclineth to disorder.

*An infant's sign the trustee-gossips frame,
But letters speak, and give themselves a name.*

*Remarks on the Allegated Letters, et, ff, ff, fb, fh,
fk, fl, ff, ft.*

The similar formation and copulation of the above double consonants is a very great impediment and stumbling-block to learners, both young and in opsimathy. There is such a sameness between the *f* and *f*, that in sullied and overworn books, or in case of a bad impression in new ones, we have no distinguishing characteristic but the sense of the fore and aft expression to direct us, there being only a kind of cock's heel grafted upon the back of the *f* to signalize it from *f*, having a line across it *f*: therefore, as there will never more than a single *s* appear in any word henceforward, I would have the long *f* cancelled, and the recurvated or ogive *s* wrote always in the place of it. I suppose the printers joined them in the usual manner, in order to save time. But the supplanting *f* will be no hindrance at all; for the crooked *s* may be wedded just the same to other letters as the long or crossier *f*: *et, fl, &c.* may remain united; but I had rather they were printed asunder, for by the word *baffle* many have been *baffled*.

On the Division of Syllables in Music, &c. and the difference between speaking a Sentence and singing one.

There is great division among men about prosody, and the departing of syllables. Some will

have the syllables end successively with consonants, as *ad-min-is-tra-tion*, *cap-it-ul-a-tion*, *dil-ap-id-a-tion*; and others, that vowels should precede the hyphen, thus, *ad-mi-ni-s-tra-tion*, *di-la-pi-da-tion*; which last only is proper, because we relieve our throats by a vocal sound in resting on the vowels all thro' the word; whereas it is impossible to rest upon a consonant: and notwithstanding we write the hyphen or pause after a consonant, yet the consonant is never sounded till after the hyphen. The advantage that is pretended to be gained in regard to a right pronunciation does not compensate the harsh uncouthness of ending the syllables in a consonant: and, as a proof of dissonance of the method to the instruments of speech, instead of a boy's spelling *ben-ef-it*, *reg-en-er-ate*, *prog-en-it-ors*, he will naturally articulate it *be-ne-fit*, *re-ge-ne-rate*, *pro ge-ni-tors*. And moreover, in regard to the divisions in music, tho' the doctors and masters compose inarticulate notes in a concinnous and judicious manner, they err in parting their articulate notes: for instance, in *Neptune* and *Amynome*, in the first division of *immortal*, the voice of *o* is continued thro' the division, and the *r* not heard till *G* solreut in alt is sung; therefore should not be wrote till then. The word of *anguish* is rightly divided; but in *deep* it is *ee*, and not a single *e*, that is sung in the division; and it is the *p* solus (*dee—p*, not *—ep*) that closes it. And again, in the favourite song, *When vernal airs*, &c. in the word *dances* it is *a* that is sung to the division, thus, *da—nce*, for *n* is never founded till the close of it, and therefore ought not to be written till under that note. And further, in the division of *angels* in *Cymon* and *Iphigenia*, the *n* is not sung till *A* lamire in alt, and therefore should be placed along with the *g* thus, *a—ngels*.

When

When we talk of poetic numbers, we make no difference between speaking and singing, as *Silenus's* song :

*He sung the secret seeds of nature's frame,
How seas, and earth, and air, and active flame, &c.*

Singing discovers a contented mind and grateful heart ; wherefore I believe thanksgiving first taught songs, and mirth attuned the psaltery and the lute. There is this difference between the one and the other ; in singing we dwell longer on the vowels than in speaking, and the voice ascends always two whole tones, or a greater third, from that of speaking, whether we speak high or low, flat or sharp, for that is the best music that is set nearest to the words ; and whether we speak flat or sharp, the music must be set so too. It is very possible to set notes even to the consonants of our words, as well as to the vowels (to which only now they are composed), and to read by music ; so that a boy might learn to read and sing all under one, and instead of either being a denial to the other, they would mutually prove and help each other. Music is the overture or trial of sermon. It discovers the defects, and points out the beauties of accent ; and if many a man's words, as he tones and variegate them in reading, were to be set to music, and played to him, it would appear so ridiculous, phantastic, and heedless, he would blush to think he should ever open his mouth in such a preposterous and undirected a manner.

There is a certain accent or pitch of the voice in speaking, which will awake a man out of sleep, which is in A ; and there is another emphasis or tone that is
not

not wisely, heartily, and sincerely delivered, that will render a man quite inattentive, and tune him into a kind of insensibility. Notwithstanding this former note is the general regulator of the voice in speaking, yet every speaker should so modulate the accents of his words, as is most convenient for the audience to whom he is delivering his sentiments; for how uncouth and ridiculous would it appear for a man to utter a sermon in the same ascension and thunder of voice (which thunder should never be) where the audit or place he spoke in was but small, as where the magnitude of it was exceeding large? For as a very gentle tone or pitch can't possibly reach the ears of a distant assembly, so no more can the words of a loud vociferous preacher have access to the ears of the hearers, or greet the attention of the people who are placed near him. And in regard to the degree of echo, if it be much given to resonance, then the lecturer must declaim in a small, still voice; for if he is cracking and boisterous, the echo will be loud and clamorous, and the mimic rehearsal of his words will occasion much disorder, and his discourses will fall far short of the effect they would otherwise have had, being lowly and reverently administered.

A Postil

A Poſſil, or Word with the Reader,
ſhewing the perfections, and what
are imperfections, in reading.

IN order that the Reader may read charmingly,
becoming, and to the uſe of edifying, I hum-
bly offer the following precepts.

In the firſt place, it is indispensably wanted, that he who reads ſhould rightly underſtand the ſenſe of what he reads; for unleſs his tongue and judgment go together, we ſhall hear a vain and fond ſound, a kind of murmuring ſound that amuſes his own ear; but it is not poſſible for him to keep due meaſure and reſts in his ſentence, nor ſpeak with that pathos and feelingneſs that he would if he himſelf duly underſtood what he ſaid; becauſe, for want of wiſdom and ſenſe, the heart muſt leave the tongue forlorn: and a man is altogether reproachful in reading ſlack and heedleſſy, as though he ſhould read ignorantly; for the impropriety on both ſides confirms him incorrect.

The next thing likewise material to make a beneficial reader, is, a temperate mind, and a heart fitly framed, great with imagination, quick of apprehenſion, without prejudice, without partiality: the head muſt be free, clear, and ſound; the ear alert and witty to hear (which greatly relieves the voice); the eye ſo transparent and quick of diſcerning, that it may ſhine like lightening upon every line, and into every ſyllable we are reading, in a nimble twink or fulguration. It is needful that
every

every reader should open their mouths and teeth as wide as may be without disfiguring their faces; for if the breath has not a free passage thro' the lips, it must of necessity be snuffed thro' the funnels of the nose. Again, excellent speaking or reading depends upon the more honourable instruments of utterance; for it is not practicable (tho' he may be not the less sincere) for one who has lost his fore teeth, who has a thick tongue, or thick lips, a coarse voice, or any *Achilleian* * impediment, to speak with that melody and sweetness of accent, that may be heard from a yielding and delicate lip, and where the whole frame is commanding and uniform for pronunciation. It is allowed by all, I believe, that there are imperfections in a multitude of readers (which are not the default of nature) and some very notable ones, that much deserve our cognizance and reproof; to wit, the making a cadence before the sentence is determined or the sense compleated, otherwise not settling the voice at a period; and speaking so low and faint in the last words of a sentence, that they cannot possibly be heard. Some restlessly gallop on so fast in reading, that they lose the attention, or else saunter on so very tedious, that they hold it in suspense. Many there are, who only raise and fall their voices in a kind of circulating music, without any difference at all to the passion, impulse, or design of the words; others again, whether there be colon: semicolon; notes of wonder! or interrogation? or parenthesis, (which should be always read lower and faster than the regular sense before and and after it), read in one perpetual tone, without any changes, by way of heart-

* *Achilles* had but one lip.

beckoning, to court observation, to relieve the ear, or ever keep proper times of silence, for the assembly severally to digest and consider well concerning what he had been reading to them. Some are wilfully and childishly addicted to lisp out their words, and think it vastly pretty too; but such a wanton habit is altogether unmanly and unseemly, and as much as possible ought to be eschewed.——There is one other great blemish too customary among readers, yea two, that are ear-bruising and detestable, motes in the eye, and abominable, *viz.* A surly wry-facedness, with the brow knit in many a wrinkled furrow; the tongue withal so wanton, prim, prudish, fribbling and foolishly moving, and the words so superficially and pragmatically delivered, that they scarcely ever give a word that full and perfect sound which it ought to have. As for instance: instead of pronouncing decently and openly the words *God* and *rod*, they mince and amble out *Gad* and *rad*, *Lard* for *Lord*, and *accarding* for *according*; and of all the other vowels as they occur in reading, in the like manner they demurely pronounce, without once considering the exceeding disagreeableness of it, and the numerous indignities they are stigmatized with from such preposterous habits, and from such an uncouth a manner of reading. On condition of any of these or the like willing or unwilling negligencies and deficiencies, no man can merit the encomium of being a distinct and graceful reader.

I shall now proceed to instruct the lecturer, if he will please to accept the lesson, whereby he shall read with exactness and perfection, and command
I both

both regard and honour from those that hear him.

All things that are the most natural, free, and without affectation, come nearest to nature, and are the most civilly and candidly received. Therefore, when I take a book or paper in my hand to read, I would not, as the manner of too many is, begin to tune and cant my voice, as though I had no intent or design at all in what I spake, or as if I was talking to the air; but I would read in a quite familiar and communicable accent; sweetly, emphatically, from the ground of a simple heart, without the fatigues and scruples of equivocal hypocrisy: and I consider, that what came sincerely from my heart, would be the most likely to succeed in coming at the minds and affections of him, or them, to whom I was delivering my sentiments; whether I was condemning in wrath, boasting in chearfulness, or beseeching in humiliation. When I read, I say, I would, as it were, by my tone of voice, make the author's thoughts my own, if they are not; I mean, as if his notions were of my own considering, or I myself was the author, in point of pronounciation of what I expressed. I would endeavour my discourses should be as express and affable as if I read without any book at all, with such *Catonic*, or other comical, variation of voice, (which best suited the nature of the subject), that if the person I communed with did not see me hold a book, he would believe indeed I spoke *extempore*.

I believe some men imagine that they are not to talk in print in the same accent and intimacy of expression, as they must in speaking a sentence *extempore*;
tempore;

tempore; for I have heard men mention the contents of what they purposed to copy into a letter, and after they have wrote it, notwithstanding the same words and their proper hand-writing, when they have read it over, they have read it in a quite different accent. What! must I express myself in a canting, ridiculous manner, because I have got characters to instruct me? No; I read by letters, but sing by other notes. Books indeed are necessary for the help of memory, and to prevent mistakes; but truly, the sooner we can loose from them, or the less occasion we have to refer to them, the better. It were to be wished, that our wisdom were strong enough, with abundance of healthful knowledge 'stablish'd in the heart, as well as treasured in the magazines of the letter; that we might speak more at will, than in the present age we generally are able. Howbeit, for the sake of devotion, to frame the conceit, and to fasten the heart as much as possible from straying from its (*religious*) purposes, I would encourage to keep the eye steadily and constantly on the letters whilst we are reading; for the images of words in a more especial manner, impress the very substance of the things we wish and worship on our minds, and insensibly recoils the roving, wild Conceiver, from the fruitless folly of distracting imaginations. But to quit my episode, I shall proceed to shew, that this purity of speaking cannot be well effected, unless I have an earnest desire that the person I read to should rightly understand me, by shooting my imagination forward, premeditating my words as I read, and having a just content of such a measure of words in my mind, as, compleating the sense, will require a rest, or be peroratively convenient to wind up a

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sentence; and, that I might prevent mistakes in making addition or diminution of words or letters in reading any thing, I would deal my eyes, letter by letter, distinctly on every letter, in a word, spelling every syllable in my mind before I uttered. And I am experienced to think, that having always this caution, I scarcely could fail of reading with great certainty and correctness.

Perhaps many may be offended in me, and think it quite beneath their ingenuity to conform to my directions; but sure I am, there is no preferable method to teach to read well. Hereby we shall speak with the tongues of men and angels: we shall be mighty to read before kings, we shall not read before mean men.

To these, the laws of reading, I refer,

The pulpit, bar, and active theatre:

Calliope herself, in smiles, would deign to bear

The lecturer thus, in honest voice declare.

Of

Of the W O R D, or A - T A U.

EVERY single letter contained in every alphabet, is a direct hieroglyphic, and expresses the person of one living and true God, everlasting, *incomprehensible*; the soul of man, and the fearful union and simplicity that subsists in the letters altogether; and how much such and such sounds, *bell*s or *syllabel*, (from *sylla*, apart or distinct, and *bel*, a sound) betokeneth virtue and vice; man, or the state of nature and the soul. The bare letters or alephers, severally distinguish life and motion; and the changes of these letters into syllables, express in a most wonderful order the ascription and attributes of such existences or entity. And many of the words (the syllables whereof being pure and particular sounds) are frequently found to thwart and oppose the divine will; part whereof speaking God and his perfections, and other part thereof, as it were, another God, or some kind of theomachy or being against him. As for example. *Error* or *erer*, is really *arar*, or *rr*; for *ar*, (*al* or *all*) is One, Lord of life; and *ar*, or *er*, or *or*, is the termination *man*, or wicked spirit, tempting and contending of him. And again, *evil* or *evel* (and *vel* is very *Latin* for *or*) is heaving, swelling, quickening, or strengthening, of hellish power against the good. *Devil*, or *Theo-vile*, or *Die-val* (or *Die-fall*, falling from God), is a thing of once-spirit, day or light, spurning or stirring up against another spirit; for *die* is *tye*, light or perfect good and perfect union; and *good* is *goad*, and *goad* is whetted, sharp, or piercing wit. And sometimes *vile* or *file*, is the
pre-

preposition in a word, and the pure Godhead cometh last, as, *file-the o*, that is, *fil-the*, defilement, a *the-filing* or *defiling* and dishonouring of divinity. Again, the person *Dee*, *Thee*, *Thié*, *Tby*, or *Die*, is God or day; and *vil*, or *val*, or *file*, or *fal*, or *fall*, or *fool*, or *foul*, is the wicked divided against, &c. and so in a multitude of other words accordingly.

Words are not, as some gross ears interpret, only a grinding or chafeing of sound of types and letters, striking the outer ear by the operation of the breath or spirit; but they are very man or mono, principle and very self, everlasting; of infinite, dread-united meaning, the express disposition of his nature in the heart, and not in the inked or graven sign. They are spirit, and they are life; they are death, and they are destruction: and their types are purely banners to avocate and summon the mind back to itself, when stolen or strayed away, and to regulate the senses in wisdom, truth, and holiness. The word is very God and very Devil, good and evil, virtue and vice; and letters are as shadows to reflect the life. Herewith bless we God, and therewith curse we men, who are formed after the similitude of God. *In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God, &c.* We have only use for letters now to help and comfort us in this mortal state; for in the immortal, every good man shall be able to will at will, self quicken, self-move, and also self-comfort; always pure, always in order; at once hearing the most pleasant and sweetest love-chord harmony; tasting without surfeit ambrosia, and the all that is good, and delicious. Susceptible of inbred divinity! smelling the
the

the most sensible perfumes; knowing all things, intuitive of all things, and all in all with God himself. The plain signification of *word*, *verd*, or *green*, or *verb*, is perennial or durableness; being of *virtue* or *worth-ue*, or *wortbe*, of the family of *vir*'s and *vir*'s, man's name, or the *N A M*; and nothing but what is virgin virtuous can be manly, or is worthy of that venerable and divine appellation; but differently, is vicious, unnatural, unworthy, ungodly. None, for this cause, should open their lips unwordily; forasmuch as the very word itself is *worthy* or *worde*. And the holy scripture saith exactly to this effect: *Let all who name the name of Christ depart from iniquity*. Nevertheless, should there be no sound heard at all from the lips or corporeal tongue, or man's own self be apprehensive by letters, yet in secret whisperings the heart pronounces, and the will and spirit do utter within, amazing languages.

*Thus, tho' no outward sounds were heard or known,
Or letters ink'd or grav'd in wood or stone;
Yet am'rous tongues would belfree in the sense,
Or ingrate scorning mouthe impertinence.*

The SYLLABLEIUM.

An Universal Reading Table, or a True Scale and Principle of the Word; together with the names the letters and double consonants are to be called by, which will be found by practice much more fitting and helpful to pronunciation than those at present by which they are distinguished.

Names of the Consonants.

B	b	bee or eb
C	c	fee & kee or ec
D	d	dee or ed
F	f	fee or ef
G	g	ghee & eg or jee & edg
H	h	hee or eh
J	j	jee
K	k	kee or ec
L	l	lee or el
M	m	mee or em
N	n	nee or en
P	p	pee or ep
Q	q	koo or ook
R	r	ree or ur
S	s	fe or es
T	t	tee or et
V	v	vee or ev
W	w	hoo
X	x	eks
Y	z	zee or ez

Names of the Vowels.

A	a	ha
E	e	he
I	i	hee
O	o	haw or aw
U	u	hu
Y	y	hee

A Table of Ediphthongs, &c.

aa	ae	ai	ao	au	ay
ea	ee	ei	eo	eu	ey
ia	ie	(iew)	io	iu	(ieu)
oa	oe	oi	oo	ou	oy
ua	ue	ui	uo		uy
ya	ye	(yie)	yo	yew	(eaw)

ch	chee & kee or ec & etch
gh	ghee
gn	} nee
hn	
ph	fee or ef
sh	shee or esh
th	thee or eth

Couples or Braces.

et	act	fi	assist
fi	fine	ft	stealest
sh	shine	ff	baffle
fl	fly	æ	Phæbus
fl	fly	œ	Phoenix.

Note, That to begin words, the first name, and in ending of words the other, will be approved the most expedient to be made use of.

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An Inventory of Words to exercise the Double Vowels, Ediph-
thongs, &c. in which they are severally comprehended.

A			E			I		
aa	Aaron		ea	yea, ear		ia	Asia	
	Baal			area, tea			dial	
	Canaan			idea, dead			phial	
ae	æra		ee	lee, eel, thee		ie	yield, bier	
	Æolus			steed			dieresis, lie	
	Phaeton			weed			ties, dies	
ai	aim		ei	eight, deign	(iew)	view		
	ail, laity			deity, heir				
	rail			weight, their				
ao	Cacao		eo	people	io	Io		
	Dutrao			theory		viol ratio		
	Phaon, Naomi			surgeon		Ionian		
au	autumn		eu	Deus, eum	iu	diurnal		
	audit, tau			Deuteronomy		radius		
	centaur			neuter, Europe		Darius		
ay	ay, nay		ey	key, wey	(ieu)	lieu		
	pay, day			eye, they		adieu		
O			U			Y		
oa	boar, Goa		ua	mantua	ya	yard		
	oar, foar			dual		yarn		
	Zoar			persuade		yatch		
oe	Œdipus		ue	due, true	ye	ye, yew		
	roe, poet			quell		yes, dye		
	œconomy			duet		yell		
	phœnix			duel, fuel		yellow		
oi	oil		ui	quick, quill	yie	yield		
	boil			fruit, fuit				
	foil							
oo	woo, ooz		uo	fluor, cruor	yo	yore, yoke		
	coo, too			buoy, puor		yon, yolk		
ou	thou, you		uu	equus	yu	yule		
	our, your					yuba		
	ought, out				(yew)	yew		
oy	boy, joy		uy	buy, guy	(eau)	beauty		
	oyer, cloy					beau, beaux		
			K			The		

The SYLLABLEIUM, or Reading Table.

A		E		I	
ab abe	ba eba	be eb ebe	ib ibe	bi ebi	
abb abbe	ebba	ebb ebbe	ibb abbe	ebbi	
ac ace	ca eca	ci ec ecce	ic ice	ci eci	
acc acce	ecca	ecc etce	icc icce	ecci	
ad ade	da eda	de ed ede	id ide	di edi	
add adde	edda	edd edde	idd idde	eddi	
af afe	fa efa	fe ef efe	if ife	fi efi	
aff affe	effa	eff effe	iff iffe	effi	
ag age	ga ega	ge eg ege	ig ige	gi egi	
agg	egga	egg egge	igg igge	eggi or elgi	
ah	ha eha	he eh he	ih he	hi ehi	
aj or adge	ja eja	je ej or edge	ij or idge	ji eji	
ak ake	ka eka	ke ek eke	ik ike	ki eki	
akk akke	ekka	ekk ekke	ikk ikke	ekki	
al ale	la ela	le el ele	il ile	li eli	
all alle	ella	ell elle	ill ille	elli	
am ame	ma ema	me em eme	im ime	mi emi	
amm amme	emma	emm emme	imm imme	emmi	
an ane	na ena	ne en ene	in ine	ni eni	
ann anne	enna	enn enne	inn inne	enni	
ap ape	pa epa	pe ep epe	ip ipe	pi epi	
app appe	eppa	epp eppe	ipp ippe	eppi	
aque	qua equa	que equ eque	iqu ique	qui equi	
ar are	ra era	re er ere	ir ire	ri eri	
arr arre	erra	err erre	irr irre	erri	
as ase	fa efa	fe es efe	is ife	fi efi	
afs affe	effa	efs effe	iff iffe	effi	
at ate	ta eta	te et ete	it ite	ti eti	
att atte	etta	ett ette	itt itte	etti	
av ave	va eva	ve ev eve	iv ive	vi evi	
aw or awe	wa ewa	we ew ewe		wi ewi	
ax	xa exa	ex xa or za	ix, is, or iz	ex	
ay or aye	ya eya	ye ey eye	ye	yi eyi	
az or aze	za eza	ze ez eze	iz ize	zi ezi	
azz azze	ezza	ezze	izze	ezzi	

The A B C E D A R I A N.

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The SYLLABLEIUM, or Reading Table.

O		U		Y	
ob obe	bo ebo	ub ube	bu ebu	eby	ebies
obb obbe	ebbo	abb ubbe	ebbu	ebby	ebbies
oc oce	co eco	uc uce	cu ecu	ecy	ecies
occ ocece	eccco	ucc ucee	eccu	eccy	eccies
od ode	do edo	ud ude	du edu	y'd edy	edies
odd odde	eddo	udd udde	eddu	eddy	eddies
of ofe	fo efo	uf use	fu efu	efy	efies
off offe	effo	uff uffe	effu	yffe effy	effies
og oge	go ego	ug uge	gu egu	egy	egies
ogg ogge	eggo	ugg ugge	eggu	eggy	eggies
oh	ho oh	uh hue	hu ehue		
oj oje	jo ejo	uj uje	ju eju	ejoy edgy	edges
ok oke	ko eko	uk uke	ku eku	yke eky	ekies
okk okke	ekko	ukk ukke	ekku	ykk ekky	ekkie
ol ole	lo elo	ul ule	lu elu	yle ely	elies
oll olle	ello	ull ulle	ellu	elly	ellies
om ome	mo emo	um ume	mu emu	yme emy	emies
omm omme	emmo	umme	emmu	emmy	emmies
on one	no eno	un une	nu eun	yne eny	enies
onn onne	enno	unne	ennu	enny	ennies
op ope	po epo	up upe	pu epu	ype epy	epies
opp oppe	eppo	uppe	eppu	eppy	eppies
oqu oque	quo equo	uque	que	equy	equies
or ore	ro ero	ur ure	ru eru	yr yrrh ery	eries
orr orre	erro	urr urre	erru	yre erry	erries
os ofe	fo efo	us use	su esu	yfs esy	esies
ofs offe	effo	ufs uffe	effu	essy	essies
ot ote	to eto	ut ute	tu etu	yte ety	eties
ott otte	etto	utt utte	ettu	etty	etties
ov ove	vo evo	uv uve	vu evu	evy	evies
ow owe	wo ewo			ewy	
ox, xo, or zo	xo or zo	ux or zu	xu or zu	yx exy	exies
oy oye	yo or eyo	uy		eye	eyes
oz oze	zo or ezo	uz uze	zu ezu	yze ezy	ezies
ezz ozze	ezzo	uzz uzze	ezzu	ezzy	ezzies

The A B E C E D A R I A N.

Double and Treble Consonants used in beginning of Words
and Syllables.

B

bd bdellium.
bla ble bli blo blu bly
bra bre bri bro bru bry

C

cha che chi cho chu chy
chl chlo
chre chri chro chry
cla cle cli clo clu cly
cra cre cri cro cru cry
cza czar or xar or zar

D

dra dre dri dro dru dry
dwa dwe dwi dwo dwu dwy

F

fla fle fli flo flu fly
fra fre fri fro fru fry

G

gha ghe ghi gho ghu ghy
gla gle gli glo glu gly
gna gne gni gno gnu gny
gra gre gri gro gru gry

K

kna kne kni kno knu kny

P

pha phe phi pho phu phy
phl phle phlegm or flegm
pla ple pli plo plu ply
phra phre phri phro phru phry
phth phthi phthific
pra pre pri pro pru pry
psa pse psi pso psu psy
pt pto

Q

qua que qui quo quu quy

R

rha rhe rhi rho rhu rhy

S

sca sce sci sco scu scy
scha sche schi scho schu schy
scra scre scri scro scru scry
sha she shi sho shu shy
shra shre shri shro shru shry
ska ske ski sko sku sky
sla sle sli slo slu sly
sma sme smi smo smu smy
sna sne sni sno snu sny
spa spe spi spo spu spy
spha sphe sphi spho sphu sphy
spla sple spli splo splu sply
spra spre spri spro spru spry
squa sque squi squo squu squy
sta ste sti sto stu sty
stra stre stri stro stru stry
swa swe swi swo swu swy

T

tha the thi tho thu thy
thra thre thri thro thru thry
thwa thwe thwi thwo thwu thwy
tra tre tri tro tru try
twa twe twi two twa twy

W

wha whe whi who whu why
wra wre wri wro wru wry

Double

The A B C E D A R I A N.

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Double and Treble Consonants used in ending of Words and Syllables.

AB					AN				
abt	ebt	ibt	obt	ubt	ance	ence	ince	once	unce
AC					anch	ench	inch	onch	unch
ach	ech	ich	och	uch	and	end	ind	ond	und
ack	eck	ick	ock	uck	ang	eng	ing	ong	ung
act	ect	ict	oct	uct	ange	enge	inge	onge	unge
AD					(eighth) ength				
adge	edge	idge	odge	udge	ank	enk	ink	onk	unk
ads	eds	ids	ods	uds	ans	ens	ins	ons	uns
adft	edft	idft	odft	udft	anse	ense	inse	onse	unse
AF					anfh	enfh	insh	onsh	unsh
aft	eft	ift	oft	uft	anft	enft	inft	onft	unft
AG					ant	ent	int	ont	unt
agm	egm	igm	ogm	ugm	anth	enth	inth	onth	unth
aign	eign	ign	oign		anx	enx	inx	onx	unx
augh	eigh	igh	ough	ugh	anz	enz	inz	onz	unz
aught	eight	ight	ought		AP				
AL					aph	eph	iph	oph	uph
alch	elch	ilch	olch	ulch	aps	eps	ips	ops	ups
ald	eld	ild	old	uld	apfe	epfe	ipfe	opfe	upfe
alf	elf	ilf	olf	ulf	apft	epft	ipft	opft	upft
alg	elg	ilg	olg	ulg	apt	ept	ipt	opt	upt
alge	elge	ilge	olge	ulge	AQ				
alk	elk	ilk	olk	ulk	aque	equa	iqui	oque	uque
alm	elm	ilm	olm	ulm	AR				
aln	eln	iln	oln	uln	arb	erb	irb	orb	urb
alp	elp	ilp	olp	ulp	arch	erch	irch	orch	urch
alph	elph	ilph	olph	ulph	ard	erd	ird	ord	urd
als	els	ils	ois	uls	arge	erge	irge	orge	urge
alsh	elsh	ilsh	olsh	ulsh	argh	ergh	irgh	orgh	urgh
alt	elt	ilt	olt	ult	ark	erk	irk	ork	urk
alth	elth	ilth	olth	ulth	arl	erl	irl	orl	url
alve	elve	ilve	olve	ulve	arm	erm	irm	orm	urm
alx	elx	ilx	olx	ulx	arn	ern	irn	orn	urn
AM					arp	erp	irp	orp	urp
amb	emb	imb	omb	umb	arph	erph	irph	orph	urph
amn	emn	imn	omn	umn	arrh	errh	irrh	orrh	urrh
amp	emp	imp	omp	ump	ars	ers	irs	ors	urs
amph	emph	imph	omph	umph	arfe	erfe	irfe	orfe	urfe
ams	ems	ims	oms	ums	arsh	ersh	irsh	orsh	ursh
					AR				

AR					athm	ethm	ithm	othm	uthm
arft	erft	irft	orft	urft	ats	ets	its	ots	uts
art	ert	irt	ort	urt	atz	etz	itz	otz	utz
arth	erth	irth	orth	urth					

AS					AV			
ask	esk	isk	ok	usk	av'd	ev'd	iv'd	ov'd
askt	eskt	iskt	okt	uskt	AW			
ash	esh	ish	osh	ush	awb	ewb		owb
asle	esle	isle	osle	usle	aw'd	ew'd		ow'd
astle	estle	istle	ostle	ustle	awk	ewk		owk
asm	esm	ism	osm	usm	awl	ewl		owl
asn	esn	isn	osn	usn	awn	ewn		own
asp	esp	isp	osp	usp	awr	ewr		owr
ast	est	ist	ost	ust				

AT					AX			
atch	etch	itch	otch	utch	axt	ext	ixt	oxt
ath	eth	ith	oth	uth				
					AY			
					ayft	(ayth)	oyft	ythe

Anomalous Articles and Syllables.

Endings in EL and LE.

able	eble	ible	oble	uble
abble	ebble	ibble	obble	ubble
acle	ecle	icle	ocle	ucle
accle	eccle	iccle	occle	uccle
ackle	eckle	ickle	ockle	uckle
adle	edle	idle	odle	udle
addle	eddle	iddle	oddle	uddle
afle	efle	ifle	ofle	ufle
affle	effle	iffle	offle	uffle
agle	egle	igle	ogle	ugle
aggle	eggle	iggle	oggle	uggle
aple	epile	iple	ople	uple
apple	epple	ipple	opple	upple
arle	erle	irle	orle	urle
alle	elle	ille	olle	ulle
assel	essel	issel	ossel	ussel
astle	estle	istle	ostle	ustle
atle	etle	itle	otle	utle
attle	ettle	ittle	ottle	uttle
avel	evel	ivel	ovel	uvel
axel	exel	ixel	oxel	uxel
azel	ezel	izel	ozel	uzel
azzel	ezzel	izzel	ozzel	uzzel

Endings in ER and RE.

abre	ebre	ibre	obre	ubre
abber	ebber	ibber	obber	ubber
acre	ecre	icre	ocre	ucere
acker	ecker	icker	ocker	ucker
adre	edre	idre	odre	udre
adder	edder	idder	odder	udder
afre	efre	ifre	ofre	ufre
affer	effre	iffre	offre	uffre
agre	egre	igre	ogre	ugre
agger	egger	igger	ogger	ugger
apre	epre	ipre	opre	upre
apper	epper	ipper	opper	upper
are	ere	ire	ore	ure
aer	e'er	ier	oer	uer
aser	eser	iser	oser	user
asser	esser	isser	offer	usser
atre	etre	itre	oter	uter
atter	etter	itter	otter	utter
azer	ezer	izer	ozer	uzer
azzer	ezzzer	izzzer	ozzer	uzzzer



